



U.S. Army Research Institute for the Behavioral & Social Sciences

FACT SHEET



Commanders' Integrated Training Tool (CITT)

Summary

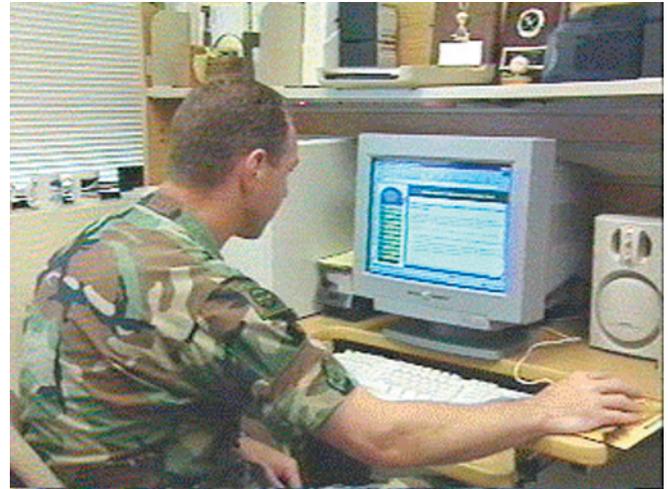
As the Army's premier virtual training environment, the Close Combat Tactical Trainer (CCTT) is a powerful training system. But, like any training system, the CCTT will only be as effective as the training programs in which it is used and the trainers who use it. The CITT is a software application enabling trainers to exploit the capabilities of the CCTT in structured training programs. It provides access to detailed information on training effectively with the CCTT, as well as to existing CCTT training support packages (TSPs). It also provides tools for modifying these TSPs to meet units' needs, as well as for developing similar TSPs while maintaining the basic structure of training. The CITT represents a prototype of integrated training support subsystems needed in future training systems.

The Requirement for CITT

The CCTT is a virtual training environment focused on the collective training of maneuver forces and their supporting elements, primarily at platoon and company team levels. As the CCTT has been developed and fielded over the past several years, various products have been developed to support training with it. These include interactive courseware developed by the Project Manager for the Combined Arms Tactical Trainer (PM CATT), and structured exercises and related TSPs developed by the US Army Research Institute (ARI) at Fort Knox, KY, in conjunction with the PM CATT and the Training and Doctrine

Command System Manager (TSM) for the CATT. Early on, personnel from these agencies recognized the need to integrate these products to make them readily accessible and adaptable to the needs of unit leaders and other trainers.

The CITT is a software application designed to provide trainers with ready access to available information on training with the CCTT. This includes detailed



information on the CCTT and its components, as well as on a structured approach to using the CCTT to address training objectives stated in terms of the tasks to be trained. The CITT also includes a repository of available CCTT TSPs, along with guidance and tools for tailoring them to meet specific training needs and for developing similar TSPs within the structured training framework. The design of CITT has been accomplished so that it is compatible with emerging Army training management systems, such as the Standard Army Training System and the Automated Systems Approach to Training, allowing CITT to be accessible through these systems in the future.

The Current CITT

The ARI has been accomplishing research and development with the prototype CITT for approximately three years, under the sponsorship of the PM and TSM CATT. This has included development (using commercial off-the-shelf software) and refinement of successive software versions, through several rounds of formative evaluation with Army trainers. This has resulted in the development and limited fielding of CITT Version 2.0, which is currently available as a desktop application and a Web site (<http://>

www.cittcctt.org). The desktop application provides full CITT functionality for learning about CCTT and the structured approach for training, as well as support for accessing, reviewing, modifying, and creating exercise TSPs. The Web site provides information on CCTT and structured training, along with support for selecting, reviewing, downloading, and uploading TSPs, as well as for exchanging information among CCTT users.

One key aspect of CITT is the integration within it of a related software application, the CCTT Exercise Initialization Tool (CEIT), developed by the PM CATT. The CEIT enables users to employ standard maps, military symbols, and graphic control measures to create exercise initialization files which can be transferred directly to the CCTT. This allows exercises developed in the integrated CITT/CEIT to be transferred electronically to the CCTT, saving time and effort for both training unit and CCTT site personnel.

Another key aspect of CITT is the extensive user help included in it, based upon multiple rounds of formative evaluation. This includes the standard forms of help found in software applications, along with innovative features such as "Why" buttons providing explanations of the structured training process and its cognitive underpinnings.

The Future of CITT

A refined CITT Version 2.1 will be completed and released by the end of Dec 00. Plans call for this version to be implemented by the PM CATT as part of

the CCTT baseline system. Further sustainment and refinement of the CITT will then be the responsibility of the PM CATT, based upon recommendations being provided by ARI.

There will be a need to continue updating CITT to include guidance on exploiting CCTT enhancements, with one example being improvements in supporting after action reviews. There will also be a continuing need to educate trainers, through the CITT, on use of CCTT and the structured training process. One example of this is the ongoing incorporation of CITT and a form of CCTT Semi-Automated Forces (SAF) into the Armor Captains' Career Course at Fort Knox. This will enable students to develop operational plans and watch them implemented in the classroom.

The CITT provides an extensive prototype of the sort of integrated training support subsystem needed in future simulations. Consideration should be given to development of CITT-like tools for coming simulations, such as OneSAF and the Warfighters' Simulation. Achieving the full potential of future systems requires the integration of training support subsystems like CITT early in the acquisition process.

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